

Grants to preserve local history across state

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) helps strengthen Indiana's historical and cultural heritage through annual federal grants it administers to local communities and not-for-profit groups that these organizations put toward preservation projects.

This year, the DNR Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology has awarded nine federal grants for historic preservation and archaeology in Indiana communities (see list below). The grants, totaling \$338,812, provide a match of \$332,636 in local and private funds, for a total projected investment of \$671,448.

The funds come from the National Park Service, a part of the U.S. Department of the Interior, which distributes federal funds to the states through the Historic Preservation Fund Program. Since 1974, the state has awarded more than \$18 million to Indiana communities through this program.

The projects for the 2013 funding cycle are:

Dearborn County: Ball State University's Department of Anthropology received a \$49,782 grant to conduct a Phase Ia reconnaissance survey of Dearborn County. This county is currently undergoing rapid development in many communities. The project plans to record imminently endangered cultural resources while significantly improving the understanding of precontact cultural dynamics in southeastern Indiana. The project seeks to shed light on the nature of the transition from the Late Woodland to the Late Historic period. Little systematic research has been carried out in Dearborn County: of the 635 sites recorded, more than 70% of them are small lithic scatters or isolated finds of unidentified prehistoric age. Since a 1995 BSU survey, no other large systematic survey has been conducted in Dearborn County. It is anticipated that 75 to 150 new site forms will be generated in SHAARD as a result of this project.. [Contact: Kevin Nolan, Ball State University, (765) 285-5328].

Fort Wayne: The City of Fort Wayne Community Development received a \$5,9245 grant to prepare a nomination to the National Register of Historic Places for the North Anthony Historic District. This is a linear district located on the northeast side of Fort Wayne and includes approximately 198 houses, built primarily in the Colonial Revival, Tudor Revival, Craftsman, and American Foursquare styles. In addition to the National Register nomination, the project will create and print 5,000 copies of a brochure on the Wildwood Historic District. This brochure is part of an ongoing series published by the City and will contain a neighborhood history, district and locator maps, architectural style descriptions, and will highlight approximately 18 properties in the district. Brochures are distributed through the City Historic Preservation Office, ARCH, the Convention and Visitor's Bureau, and the public library. [Contact: Don Orban, City of Fort Wayne, (260) 427-2160].

Indianapolis: The Indiana Supreme Court received a \$6,430 grant to prepare a publication on the restoration of the Supreme Court Chambers. The publication will focus on the restoration of the Indiana Supreme Court courtroom and its auxiliary spaces, and describe the significance of its architecture, ornamentation, and fixtures. The courtroom is used not only

for the Court's oral arguments, but also serves as a venue for state ceremonial functions, public hearings, and committee meetings. Each year, over 52,000 people visit the courtroom on State House tours and more than 1,500 schoolchildren attend educational programs developed by the Courts in the Classroom. The courtroom began a phased restoration in 1988 and included not only the courtroom, but also the robing room, conference room, law library, and clerk's office. The publication will describe the original design of the room, changes made throughout the years, and the reasons for restoration. It will also describe the art and portraiture displayed in the courtroom. A brief history and description of the restoration process will educate and inform visitors about the importance of historic preservation as well as the significance of the courtroom of the Supreme Court. [Contact: Elizabeth Osborn, (317) 233-8682].

Indianapolis: Irvington Development Organization received a \$50,000 grant to stabilize and rehabilitate the former Irvington Post Office in Indianapolis at the corner of Ritter Ave. and Washington St. The 1903 commercial building was originally integrated into a block of similar early 20th century commercial buildings, which were demolished in the 1990s. The Post Office is a simple two-story masonry design with corbelled brickwork and cornice dentils and a large recessed storefront entry. Original window and door openings are boarded. A conditions assessment prepared in August 2012 revealed a partial roof collapse into the second floor, while the interior spaces are either stripped of historic detailing or are significantly deteriorated. The previous owner had planned to demolish the building to create seven additional parking spaces, but the grant applicant organization recently acquired it with the intention of retaining and rehabilitating this corner anchor historic building within a locally designated historic district. [Contact: Margaret Banning, Irvington Development Organization, (317) 260-0669].



Montgomery County: Ball State University's Department of Anthropology received a \$49,782 grant to conduct an archaeological survey of 900 acres in Montgomery County. Little systematic research has been carried out in the county with archaeological investigations mainly oriented toward surface surveys, and only a small percentage of sites have been tested. The project's goals are: 1) to increase the site database, 2) resolve data inconsistencies within SHAARD, 3) refine the cultural chronology for the county, 4) refine settlement patterns of the precontact era, and 5) enhance our understanding of the early Euro-

American period. The project will build on BSU's FY10 grant project that identified 220 previously unknown sites through a Phase Ia survey [Contact: Chris Keller, Ball State University, (765) 285-5396].

Muncie: The City of Muncie received a \$50,000 grant to replace the roof on the Muncie Masonic Temple, now known as Cornerstone Center for the Arts. Construction of the six-story Collegiate Gothic building was completed in 1926 for the Muncie chapter of the Free and Accepted York Masons, and at the time was the largest Masonic lodge in Indiana and one of the largest in the country. The current rubber membrane roof is in very poor condition, has separated from the substrate in several sections, and is wrinkled in places so that water pools and does not drain properly. Furthermore, gaps and holes occur at joints around several of the vertical projections (such as ventilators), all of which are allowing water infiltration that is visible on the third floor mezzanine and attic levels. Many of these upper areas of the building have significant interior features, including painted murals, terrazzo, decorative plaster work, painted stencil designs, gold leaf detailing, and wainscoting—all of which are threatened by the water infiltration. [Contact: Bill Morgan, (765) 748-7400].



New Albany: St. Elizabeth Regional Maternity Center received a \$48,825 grant to rehabilitate 53 windows in the former Holy Trinity Rectory in New Albany. The sanctuary of the church was destroyed by fire in 1975 and was not rebuilt. Little maintenance was conducted on this building in the last three decades. St. Elizabeth Regional Maternity Center, a non-profit social service agency, recently acquired the building and plans to rehabilitate it to provide services to young families facing homelessness and poverty, including mental health counseling, supply distribution, and case management services. [Contact: Laura Renwick, Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana, (812) 284-4534].



North Liberty: The Town of North Liberty received a \$49,000 grant to repair and rehabilitate multiple stonework and masonry structures and features built by the Works Progress Administration in the North Liberty Town Park. This park is one of over 8,000 that were built by the WPA workers in the summer of 1935; additional features were added to it in 1937. The park is an important resource in the town and continues to be a very active community gathering place. The project covers stonework repair and rehabilitation for 16 structures and features: three stone stairways, two buildings (a bandstand and a bathhouse), a stone bench, abutments and foundations for a bridge, two retaining walls, the WWII stone memorial, two entrance columns, a flower planter, an oven/fire pit and circular bench, and the entrance walls at the north and south ends of the park. The masonry repairs generally will include cleaning, repointing where mortar is failed or missing, and resetting and replacing stones that are loose, have fallen out, or have been lost. In addition, the bathhouse and bandstand roofs will be removed and replaced, and the window in the bathhouse will also be restored. Finally, the original light fixtures will be repaired and restored to retain the integrity of park lighting, but also to contribute to better lighting and security. There is no record of systematic maintenance or preservation of these features, and many of them are deteriorating and need stabilization and rehabilitation to prevent further problems. The project proposes to address urgent needs as well as preventative maintenance. [Contact: Vicki Kitchen, Town of North Liberty, (575) 656-4447].



Paoli: Pivotal People of Southern Indiana, Inc. received a \$30,026 grant to rehabilitate the former Paoli Church in the Paoli Historic District. The sanctuary was constructed in 1880 with an addition, stained glass windows, and a brick veneer added in 1923. The gymnasium addition was added in 1923 and was possibly the first basketball gym in Orange County. The building has been vacant since 2008, however, the building occupies a prime location one block from the courthouse square and has been identified by the community as a good candidate for adaptive reuse. Local groups have acquired the church building and invested in preparation of an architectural assessment and reuse study. Plans call for making the building a public focal point by reusing the auditorium as a theater and concert venue, converting the gymnasium to a fitness center, and using other spaces for continuing education and workshop events and rental space for private events. [Contact: Megan Sullivan, Pivotal People of Southern Indiana, (317) 447-4823].

